

# California GARDEN

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2004

Volume 95 No. 5

\$2.00



# HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

## September

**MASTER GARDENER FALL SEMINARS** will be held September 13, 20, 25, and 27. Six Saturday classes and one Thursday evening class. Full details are provided when you **pre-register, which is required. The FIRST deadline is 9/3.**

Call 858/694-2860 for class titles. Cost \$10 each class. Make checks payable to Master Gardener Association for total amount and mail to: MG Fall Seminar, 5555 Overland Ave. Bldg. 4, San Diego, CA 92123-1219.

## Sept. 4 Sat.

### ★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

**LIBRARY** open from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri., also the first and third Saturdays. Members of SDSA can check out books. (Membership \$10 a year, includes magazine.) Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 105. 619/232-5762.

## Sept. 4 Sat.

**QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS** Composting Class sponsored by Solana Recyclers. 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. 760/436-7986. Free.

## Sept. 4 Sat.

**WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS** on Fall Bulbs. 9:00 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or GOTO Tomato Tasting, 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Ct., Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

## Sept. 4-5 Sat.-Sun.

### LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL FERN

**SOCIETY** Fern and Exotic Plant Show & Sale. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. both days including workshops and lectures 11, 1 and 3 p.m. Arboretum of Los Angeles County, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA. Show is free with general admission to Arboretum.

## Sept. 8 Wed.

**POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB** Monthly meeting "Beautifying and Landscaping the California Highways" by Caltrans. 10:00 a.m. at Masonic Center, 1711 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., www.plgc.org or 619/276-0209. Free.

## Sept. 9 Thurs.

**THE HUNTINGTON** Garden Talk & Sale "Grafting Fruit Trees" 2:30 p.m. Grow several varieties of your favorite fruit right on the same tree. Learn from Mitsuo Kawahawa. Plant sale follows. Friends' Hall, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino. 626/405-2100. Free.

## Sept. 11 Sat.

**GOLDEN STATE BONSAI FEDERATION** Bonsai Workshops for Beginners (Adults and Children 7 & up) Children's workshop: 9-11:30 a.m. \$15 Register at 626/405-2128. Adult workshop: 10 a.m.-noon. \$20 Register at 626/405-2146. At The HUNTINGTON 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino.

## Sept. 11 Sat.

### QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Bamboo Sale.

11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Over 100 varieties of bamboo for sale. Plants may be viewed from 9-10:30, rare auction at 10:30. Crafts and products sale 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. 760/436-3036.

## Sept. 11 and Oct. 30 Sat.

### SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

**CLASS** Adult Class and field trip with Judy Gibson "Native Plant Identification Workshop." Field trip 8:00-11:00 a.m.: workshop noon- 4:00 p.m. \$25 members, \$33 non-members. Register at 619/255-0203 or www.sdnhm.org.

## Sept. 11 Sat.

### WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on

Orchids: General Care and Growing. 9:00 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or New Rose Introductions for 2005 with Stu Miller of Weeks Roses at 9:30 a.m., at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

## Sept. 11 Sat.

**WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN** Monthly Class "Cottage Garden Design" with Chris Wotruba, owner, garden designer, and grower for Perennial Adventure. 9:30 a.m. 12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West, El Cajon. 619/660-0614. Free.

## Sept. 11-12 Sat.-Sun.

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY

Show "The Bloom Table" and Sale. Over 600 plants of all shapes and colors will be offered by members as well as books and culture info. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. both days. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

## Sept. 11-12 Sat.-Sun.

### GOLDEN STATE BONSAI FEDERATION

Sponsors the Fall Bonsai Expo 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Join internationally recognized bonsai masters for a celebration of an ancient art form. At The HUNTINGTON Botanical Center, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino. 626/405-2100. General admission.

## Sept. 12, 19, 26, Oct. 3 Sun.

### THE HUNTINGTON "Cultivating Plant Collections"

1-4 p.m. Botanical Curator Dylan Hannon will lead a series of classes on propagating and growing specific groups of plants. Sept. 12: Unusual Salvias; Sept. 19: Mexican Perennials; Sept. 26: African Succulents; Oct. 3: Tropicals. Members \$30, nonmembers \$40. Sign-up for series, get a discount. 626/405-2146 to register.

## Sept. 12 Sun.

### SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS

**SOCIETY** Annual Rhizome Sale. Hundreds of bare rhizomes, gallon size plants, cultural advice, and more.

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# California GARDEN

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FRONT COVER photograph by Ann Harkins of pond at southwest corner of Helen Hamrick's front yard in Dehesa.

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WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, 513-4900, 12755 Danielson Court, Poway CA 92064-6847

**FLOWER SHOWS:** Show chairman contact *California Garden*, 619/232-5762 if you want the magazine sold at your show.

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10 a.m.-4 p.m. or until sold out. Balboa Park, patio A of the Casa del Prado. Free.

**Sept. 13 Mon.**

**SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**  
Monthly meeting "Sex Life of Orchids" by Carol Siegel. 6:30 p.m. Del Mar Fairgrounds, Surfside Race Place. 858/756-2579. Free.

**Sept. 14 Tues.**

★**BASIC ORIENTAL FLOWER ARRANGING FOR BEGINNERS CLASS.** Sponsored by SDFA. 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Teacher: Myra Hines, NGC Flower Show Judge. Bring containers, needle holders, and clippers. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104. \$20 members; \$25 nonmembers. Pre-registration required at 619/232-5762.

**Sept. 18 Sat.**

**QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS' 5TH ANNUAL GALA** "Club Q - The Quintessential Garden Experience" Honoring Adrienne Green and Agatha Youngblood. 5:30-9:30 p.m. 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. Request an invitation at 760/436-3036 x216.

**Sept. 18 Sat.**

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION**  
**LIBRARY** will be open. See Sept. 4 for details.

**Sept. 18 Sat.**

**WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS** on Natives & Drought Tolerant Plants. 9:00 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or Bearded Iris with Guest Speaker from Greenwood Garden at 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Ct., Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

**Sept. 18-19 Sat.-Sun.**

**ORCHID FORUM OF SACRAMENTO SHOW,** Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, CA Info: 916/687-8805.

**Sept. 18-19 Sat.-Sun.**

**SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY SHOW** and Sale. Both days 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

**Sept. 21 and 28 Tues.**

★**GOURD CRAFTING: START TO FINISH.** Sponsored by SDFA. 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Teachers M.J. Wydro, Kathy Walsh and Marie Walsh. Gourds, tools, paints and yarns provided. Class will cover various methods of embellishment: burning and etching; color and stick-on designs; couching and tenefer stitching. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104. \$50 members; \$55 nonmembers for two-class series. Pre-registration required at 619/232-5762.

**Sept. 22 Wed.**

**MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB** Monthly Meeting "Bulbs: Planting and Forcing." 6 p.m. social, 6:30 meeting. Mission Hills United Church of Christ, 4070

Jackdaw St. Members free, Guests \$5. 619/295-2702.  
**Sept. 24-25 Fri.-Sat.**

**BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB** 4th Annual Standard Flower Show "Fun Galore in 2004." (A Bonitafest Event) Fri. 2:30-6:00 p.m., Saturday Noon-4:00 p.m. Bonita Valley Baptist Church, 4701 Sweetwater Rd., Bonita. Free.

**Sept. 25, Oct. 2, 9 Sat.**

**THE HUNTINGTON** "Gardening with Succulents." 10 a.m.-noon. Join garden designer Elizabeth Ralston for a three-class series on using cacti, succulents, and other dry-climate plants in the home landscape. Members \$60, nonmembers \$75. Registration at 626/405-2146.

**Sept. 25 Sat.**

**NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION BACKYARD HABITAT STEWARDS PROGRAM** Training Session begins for 4 consecutive Saturdays in Ramona at the Forest Station. \$20 material fee. Contact Carol Killebrew, Habitat Stewards Host killebrew@ix.netcom.com or 760/788-9309.

**Sept. 25 Sat.**

**WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS** on Garden Pointers: Working with Landscape Designers. 9:00 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or Fall Bulbs. 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

**Sept. 25-26 Sat.-Sun.**

**SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB** Fall Show and Sale. Both days 10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

**Sept. 25-26 Sat.-Sun.**

**SOUTH BAY ORCHID SOCIETY** Show. South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA.  
[www.southbayorchidsocietyshow.com](http://www.southbayorchidsocietyshow.com)

**Sept. 28 Tues.**

See Sept. 21 for Gourd Crafting Class information.

**Oct. 2 Sat.**

**QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS** Composting Class sponsored by Solana Recyclers. 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. 760/436-7986. Free.

**Oct. 2 Sat.**

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION**  
**LIBRARY** will be open. See Sept. 4 for details.

**Oct. 2 Sat.**

**SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM** Adult Class with Aenne Carver 10 a.m.-noon. "Container Gardening." SDNHM members \$35 and non-members \$43. Register at 619/255-0203 or [www.sdnhm.org](http://www.sdnhm.org).

**Oct. 2 Sat.**

**WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS** at 9:00 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or at 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

- Oct. 2-3 Sat.-Sun.  
**ICHIYO SCHOOL OF IKEBANA** Exhibition and Bazaar "Autumn Sky" Both days 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.
- Oct. 4 Mon.  
**CGCI FLORAL DESIGN FORUM 2003-2004** featuring David Root of San Diego. He is a special event Florist who designs his own containers. 12:30 p.m. at Women's Club of Carlsbad, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad. \$8 at the door. 760/749-9608.
- Oct. 5 Tues.  
**★AN ILLUMINARY FLORAL DESIGN CLASS.** Sponsored by SDFA. 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Teacher: Velma West, award-winning floral designer and teacher will show how to use lights for a special effect in a flower arrangement. Participants supply containers, clippers and floral material either purchased or from the garden. Flowers should include showy blooms, "line" material and filler flowers. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104. **Pre-registration required** at 619/232-5762. \$20 members; \$25 nonmembers.
- Oct. 9 Sat.  
**2nd ANNUAL SOUTH BAY FALL GARDEN SHOW AND CAREER DAY 2004** 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Sponsored by the Landscape and Nursery Technology Program at Southwestern College. There will be booths by Garden Clubs, Landscape Companies, Nurseries, and Trade Organizations. Seminars every half hour, hot dogs and sodas to eat. Horticulture Site, 900 Otay Lakes Rd., Chula Vista. 619/421-6700 x5371. Free.
- Oct. 9 Sat.  
**THE HUNTINGTON** "Building an Orchid Collection." 1-4 p.m. Orchid expert Doug Conkin will share some basic steps for building your own collection. Members \$30, nonmembers \$40. Registration 626/405-2146.
- Oct. 9 Sat.  
**WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS** at 9:00 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or at 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.
- Oct. 9 Sat.  
**WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN** Monthly Class with Kay Stewart, "Using California Natives in Your Landscape Design." 9:30 a.m. 12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West, El Cajon. 619/660-0614. Free.
- Oct. 9-10 Sat.-Sun.  
**10th ANNUAL SAN DIEGO INTERNATIONAL ORCHID FAIR.** Del Mar Fairgrounds Activity Center (near main gate). Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$5 at the door plus parking. 760/436-3036 or visit [www.orchidfairsandiego.com](http://www.orchidfairsandiego.com).
- Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31 Sun.  
**THE HUNTINGTON** "Mediterranean Gardening Series." 1-3 p.m. "The Mediterranean Appeal" with Patrick Anderson(Oct. 10); "Incorporating Native Plants" with Dylan Hannon(Oct. 17); "Gardening in Rhythm with a Mediterranean Climate" with Jan Smithen(Oct. 24); "Design Strategies" with Shirley Kerins(Oct 31). Each class: Members \$25, nonmembers \$35. Sign-up for series and receive a discount. Registration 626/405-2146.
- Oct. 11 Mon.  
**SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY** Monthly meeting "Ten Steps to a Smart Garden" with Pat Welsh. A preview to Welsh's new book, *The American Horticultural Society Southwest SMART GARDEN Regional Guide*. 6:30 p.m. Del Mar Fairgrounds, Surfside Race Place. 858/756-2579. Free.
- Oct. 12 Tues.  
**AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS (ASLA/MCASD 2004 LECTURE SERIES)** in Partnership with the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, presents Bob Perry, Landscape Architect/Professor/Author of *Trees and Shrubs for Dry California Landscapes* and *Landscape Plants for Western Regions*. 6 p.m. Catered reception, 7 p.m. Lecture. 700 Prospect St., La Jolla. \$10 general admission or \$7 ASLA, AIA and MCASD members and Students w/I.D. Reservations 619/283-8818 or e-mail [aslasd@att.net](mailto:aslasd@att.net).
- Oct. 12 Tues.  
**★BAMBOO CONSTRUCTION FOR A FLOWER ARRANGEMENT CLASS.** Sponsored by SDFA. 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Teacher: Kathy Walsh. Build a bamboo construction and use it to create a floral design. Bamboo, flowers, wire, tubing and tools provided. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104. \$25 members; \$30 nonmembers.
- Oct. 13 Wed.  
**POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB** Monthly meeting "Garden Therapy—Nature's Health Plan" by Eva Shaw. Shaw's book, *Shovel-It* will be for sale. Also, Autumn Wreath Workshop (small fee) after meeting 10:00 a.m. at Masonic Center, 1711 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., [www.plgc.org](http://www.plgc.org) or 619/276-0209. Free.
- Oct. 14 Thurs.  
**THE HUNTINGTON** Garden Talk & Sale "Planting Bamboo Is Not a Crime!" 2:30 p.m. Ralph Evans, owner of Bamboo Headquarters nursery in Visalia will discuss how to bring the beauty of bamboo home without worrying that it will take over your landscape. Plant sale follows. Friends' Hall, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino. 626/405-2100. Free.
- Oct. 15-16 Fri.-Sat.  
**AMERICAN BAMBOO SOCIETY** Annual Conference held at The Huntington, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino. Registration \$200. Public is welcome. 626/405-3513 or 626/405-3514.
- Oct. 15-17 Fri.-Sun.  
**AMERICAN BAMBOO SOCIETY** Bamboo Bazaar 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. as part of the conference (see



- above), a sale of bamboo plants and related arts and crafts in The Huntington parking lot, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino. Admission to sale area is free to public.
- Oct. 16 Sat.**  
**CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY** Sale. Plants, seeds, and bulbs that are native to San Diego. Also available, books, posters, information, and advice. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Courtyard of Casa del Prado. 619/685-7321. Free.
- Oct. 16 Sat.**  
**★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY** will be open. See Sept. 4 for details.
- Oct. 16 Sat.**  
**SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM** Adult Class with Aenne Carver 10 a.m.-noon. "Harvest from the Garden." SDNHM members \$20 and non-members \$28. Register at 619/255-0203 or [www.sdnhm.org](http://www.sdnhm.org).
- Oct. 16 Sat.**  
**UCI ARBORETUM AND ORANGE COUNTY FINE ARTS, INC.** present "The Art of Flowers" annual Fall Art and Flower Festival at UC Irvine Arboretum 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Located just south of the corner of Campus Drive and Jamboree Rd. on the UCI North Campus. 949/824-5833. \$2 admission fee.
- Oct. 16 Sat.**  
**WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS** at 9:00 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or at 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Ct, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.
- Oct. 16 Sat.**  
**WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN Fall Festival Preview.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Activities include Traditional American Crafts of spinning, weaving, knitting, lace-making, fiber dying and more. 12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West, El Cajon. 619/660-0614. Free.
- Oct. 16-17 Sat.-Sun.**  
**IKENOBORO SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SHOW** 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. both days. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.
- Oct. 19 Tues.**  
**★SWINGING INTO RHYTHM CLASS.** Sponsored by SDFA. 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Teacher: Carvill Veech, Coronado Flower Show Judge in training. The class will focus on two of the most important elements of award winning designs, rhythm and depth, and how to achieve them in the design of your choice. We will also explore the use of dried plant materials to enhance rhythm and depth. Participants supply containers, clippers, and floral material (both fresh and dried) either purchased or from the garden. Floral materials should include showy blooms, "line" material and filler flowers. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104. \$25 members; \$30 nonmembers.
- Oct. 19 Tues.**  
**★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING** "Floral Arranging with David Root" 7:00 p.m. Join us for an evening about floral design, including displays by San Diego Floral Arrangers Guide. Call 619/232-5762 Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.
- Oct. 20 Wed.**  
**★SDFA TOUR TO LOTUSLAND** Pickups at University Towne Center and North County Park and Ride. \$65 members and \$70 non-members. Price includes bus, box lunch, docent tour, and dinner. Send SASE and check to San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado, Rm 105, San Diego, CA 92101. For more details call 619/232-5762.
- Oct. 22-24 Fri.-Sun.**  
**QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Fall Plant Sale.** The oldest fund raiser held at Quail run by docents; with plant donations from San Diego area growers, nurseries, and individuals. A unique variety of locally grown new introductions, native plants as well as tried and true traditional plants. Private preview sale is Friday from 4-6 p.m.. Sat. 9 a.m.-11 members only; Open to the public Sat. and Sun. 11-4 p.m. 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. Free with reduced garden admission of \$5.00. 760/436-3036 or [www.qbgardens.org](http://www.qbgardens.org)
- Oct. 23 Sat.**  
**WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS** at 9:00 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or at 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.
- Oct. 23-24 Sat.-Sun.**  
**SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY Show and Sale.** Sat. Noon-4 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.
- Oct. 26 Tues.**  
**★PINE NEEDLE BASKETRY CLASS.** Sponsored by SDFA. 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Teacher: Martha Rosenberg, grand dame of basketry in San Diego. learn to make a small bowl or tray. Materials furnished. Bring a towel and a bucket. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104. \$20 members; \$25 nonmembers.
- Oct. 27 Wed.**  
**MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB Monthly Meeting** "Arts & Crafts Landscape." with David Reed of The Lodge @ Torrey Pines. 6 p.m. social, 6:30 meeting. Mission Hills United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw St. Members free, Guests \$5. 619/295-2702.
- Oct. 27 Wed.**  
**SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM** "Between the Fires: One Year Later." Explore the Cedar fire scar one year later and discover how both natural and human communities have responded. You might be surprised! Adult Class 6:30-8:30 p.m. and Field Trip (Oct.30, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.) SNHM members \$59 and non-members \$69. Price includes transportation. Register at 619/255-0203 or [www.sdnhm.org](http://www.sdnhm.org).

Oct. 28 or 29 Thurs. or Fri.

**THE HUNTINGTON** "Little Chamber of Botanical Horrors." 4-5:30 p.m. Pitcher plants that drown their dinner, carnivores that gobble up flies, flowers that smell like rotting garbage: these are just a few of the weird denizens of the plant world that will be unveiled by Jim Folsom, Director of the Botanical Gardens, in an entertaining presentation suitable for the whole family. (Recommended for ages 6 and up) \$5 per person. Tickets: 626/405-2128. Botanical Center. 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino.

Oct. 30 Sat.

**WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS** at 9:00 a.m. 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. Or at 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

Oct. 30-31 Sat.-Sun.

**SAN DIEGO WILD ANIMAL PARK** Garden Festival. "A Celebration of All Things Green!" Free with park admission.

"DOWN TO EARTH" With Tom Piergrossi  
Daily at 11:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. on CTN  
Time Warner 22 or Cox 19 or 24, and Adelphia 66

### BALBOA PARK

#### **SAN DIEGO ZOO**

Plant Day at the Zoo. 3rd Friday of each month see approximately 700,000 plants. Orchid Greenhouse open to the public 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Take a free botanically themed bus tour at 2 p.m. starts at the Orchid Greenhouse. Free with general admission.

#### **SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN**

Open Tues. thru Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Docent tours with reservations. Fee. 619/232-2721.

#### **OFFSHOOT TOURS** Volunteer guided. Various topics.

Saturdays 10:00 a.m. Meet at Visitors Center. 619/235-1121. Free.

#### **INTERPRETIVE WALKS** Volunteer guided. History

oriented topics. Meet at Visitors Center. Tuesdays and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. Free.

### ONGOING EVENTS

#### **SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM**

Canyonier Walks. Sat-Sun. Sept-June. 619/232-3821 ext 203 or [www.sdnhm.org](http://www.sdnhm.org) for locations, times and directions. Free.

#### **QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS** Garden Tours &

Events. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. 760/436-3036 or [www.qbgardens.com](http://www.qbgardens.com). General Admission.

#### **BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE** Walks.

Poway. Sat. & Sun. 9:00 a.m. 858/679-5469.

#### **WALKABOUT INTERNATIONAL** Local Guided

Walks. Newsletter. 619/231-SHOE. Free.

#### **CUYAMACA COLLEGE** Water Conservation

Garden Landscape Seminar and docent-led garden tour. 2nd Saturday of each month. 9:30 a.m. 619/660-0614. Free. [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org).

#### **THE HUNTINGTON** is open Tuesday through Friday

noon to 4:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed Monday and most holidays. \$15.00 adults, \$12 seniors, \$10.00 students (12-18), \$6 youth (5-11) under 5 and members free. Group rate(10+) \$11.00. 626/405-2100 or [www.huntington.org](http://www.huntington.org).

Deadline for submission to

#### **HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR** for

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER issue is SEPTEMBER 15.

Email event info to [calendar@sdfloreal.org](mailto:calendar@sdfloreal.org). **SAN DIEGO**

#### **FLORAL ASSOCIATION** is not responsible for last

minute changes or any information submitted late by the organizations.

## GARDENING CLASSES

### BETTY NEWTON

#### 14 WEEK COURSE

"Landscaping: Trees, Shrubs and Flowers. Designing and the Basics (Ground cover to weed control)"

Begins Sept. 2-Dec.-16 Thurs. A.M.

Foothills Adult Center. 8:50 a.m.-Noon. Room 12, 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. 619/401-4122. \$29.

### JOYCE GEMMEL

#### 8 WEEK COURSE

"French Intensive and Biodynamic Vegetable Gardening"

Sept. 3-Oct. 22 Fri. A.M.

Foothills Adult Center. 9:00 a.m.-noon. Room 12, 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. 619/401-4122. \$25.

For other class information, check the following sites:

[www.guhdsd.net/adult](http://www.guhdsd.net/adult) [www.miracosta.com](http://www.miracosta.com)

[www.cuyamaca.net](http://www.cuyamaca.net) [www.swc.cc.ca.us](http://www.swc.cc.ca.us)

### ★**FLORAL'S NOVEMBER WORKSHOPS . . .**

Nov. 2 Tues. A SYNERGISTIC FLORAL DESIGN with Velma West \$20 Members, \$25 Nonmembers

Nov. 9 Tues. A NEW DESIGN FOR THANKSGIVING with Elma Garcia \$20 Members, \$25 Nonmembers

Nov. 16 Tues. ALL-NATURAL BASKET with Martha Rosenberg \$20 Members, \$25 Nonmembers

Nov. 23 Tues. THANKSGIVING TOPIARY FLOWER ARRANGEMENT with Velma West \$20 Members, \$25 Nonmembers

# Gleanings . . .

*gathered by barbara jones*

## LOGO STICKER . . .

Have you noticed the new red stickers on produce, especially in farmers' markets? It has the number 365 rising over rows of crops. This sticker indicates that the produce was raised in San Diego County by local ranchers and farmers. There are more than 200 types of agricultural products raised in the county on over 6,000 farms.

Agriculture is the fourth largest industry in San Diego County and the county is the number one horticulture producing county in the United States.

## CUT FLOWERS . . .

San Diego County grown flowers are the major local commercial source. Three-fourths of the cut flowers purchased in the United States are grown in other countries. The Netherlands is the largest cut flower exporter in the world followed by Columbia. The U.S. purchases over half the imported flowers from Columbia. For big holidays like Mother's Day or Valentine's Day more than thirty-five planeloads of flowers arrive in the U.S., mainly in Florida, which is only a three hour flight from Columbia.

Roses are the biggest seller and over one billion roses are purchased in the U.S. each year. Most of them are grown in Columbia — most of the rest are grown in California.

California is the largest flower growing state in the United States, producing approximately three-fourths of all U.S.-grown flowers.

## WILDFIRES . . .

San Diegans start worrying about wildfires when fall approaches and the hot dry Santa Ana winds start to blow. It is estimated that a grass fire speeds at 4 miles per hour with flames reaching 8 feet in length. That is about 6 football fields per minute. Grass and sagebrush fires travel at 1.7 miles per hour with flames reaching 12 feet in length. That equals 1.1 football fields per minute. Tall chaparral fires travel at 8.3 miles per hour with flames reaching 47 feet in length. That equals about 8 football size fields per minute. If a strong Santa Ana is blowing the fires will move faster.

It is estimated that firebrands, pieces of burning vegetation or wood, can be carried more than one mile ahead of a fire front. Homes located blocks away from a fire front can be ignited by these firebrands, particularly if there is fuel available. This is a major cause of house fires during a wildfire. If you have not cleaned out dead grasses and brush around your house and removed dried vegetation/leaves from your storm drains and any nook on your roof — do it now!

## HEALTH GARDENS . . .

Research is showing that even viewing a garden promotes measurable improvements in mental and physical health. A new science, a practice of horticulture therapy, is growing. Many hospitals are building small but elaborate gardens for viewing or strolling. Studies show that people exposed to nature

recovered faster from stress. Hospitalized patients whose windows overlook landscaped scenery recover quicker from surgery. Also, studies have shown that viewing a garden or a natural vista can reduce blood pressure.

We know how pleasant and relaxing it is to work in our garden. Severely handicapped people benefit from caring for potted plants. In the eastern U.S., several city-owned botanical gardens are hiring horticulture therapists to run programs that help and encourage local residents to plant, weed, water, and harvest plants in the public gardens. In some prisons, inmates are allowed to work in a prison garden or in public gardens.

Walking in a forest is very beneficial to mental health and many cities, especially in Europe, are planting urban forests.

In San Diego many home owners are removing their lawns and planting small private urban forests. Some are using tropical plants. Actually, once an urban forest is mature it uses less water and requires less care than a lawn. Plus, there is the added bonus that the air will be cleaner and cooler and birds will love it.

## SOIL TRIVIA . . .

Many call it dirt, but gardeners call it soil. Soils are classified by chemical, physical, and biological properties. There are over 13,129 different types of soil in the U.S. and 1,113 of them are unique to California. (Scientists estimate that there are about 300,000 different soils in the world.)



# EDIBLE FLOWERS

BY CATHY WILKINSON BARASH

EDIBLE FLOWERS HAVE BECOME familiar garnishes in countless restaurants—the twenty-first century's equivalent of parsley. However, like parsley, most people don't eat them. They move the flowers—nasturtiums and pansies are the most commonly seen—to the side of the plate just like they used to do with parsley.

In the past ten years, edible flowers have gone from garnish to ingredient in restaurant cuisine. You know that they have caught on when you can find edible flowers among the fresh herbs at grocery stores, not just in the trend-setting areas of the country, but in rural areas, too. However, buying edible flowers is expensive and they are fragile and ideally eaten the same day they are picked. Even day-old flowers lose some of their texture and flavor. If you want to have a salad with a bunch of nasturtiums, great guacamole with cilantro flowers, or dandelion “mushrooms,” you need to grow your own.

By growing your own edible flowers, you are assured of their freshness, and that they are grown organically. No doubt, some plants you already grow from seed to beautify your home have edible flowers.

Nasturtiums are the most readily recognized edible flower, having made their debut on salads in restaurants across the country. Their bold orange or scarlet color enlivens mixed greens. Up close, they have a slightly sweet fragrance, but their unique flavor sets them apart. Pop the entire flower into your mouth and as you chew, you first get a sweet essence from the nectar, followed by a bold peppery tang. Make colorful and flavorful vinegar from nasturtiums by adding flowers to a good white wine vinegar. Let it sit in the dark (light will fade the color) for several weeks. Strain the flowers out and pour the vinegar into a clean glass bottle. Use it to make a flavorful salad dressing. You also can make a unique martini with vodka that has been used to steep nasturtiums. In addition to orange and scarlet, nasturtium flowers come in yellow, pale orange, cream, and bicolors.

Pansies are a favorite as they come in so many different colors—single and combinations. When eating pansies, you can break two of the cardinal rules of edible flowers: eat only the petals and remove the pistils and stamens before eating. In fact, you can eat the pansy sepals as well. Some pansies have a delicate fragrance, primarily the blue-flowered ones. They have a mild wintergreen flavor. Make simply elegant *hors d'oeuvres*



The nasturtium is a tasty annual that blooms all summer. This plant thrives in poor or less fertile soil and can withstand some shade.

by spreading some cream cheese on a plain cracker (round or square) and top it with a whole pansy. If you are planning a special event, you can sow seeds for the color you fancy. Pansies are perfect for candying and decorating cakes—anything from a simple sheet cake to a wedding cake.

Although most people think of dandelions as weeds, the flowers are edible when young. There are varieties that have been bred for their size and leaves, which make a lovely addition to the spring garden—and will surprise your neighbors. Native Americans dipped the entire young flower in egg and then in cornmeal and fried it. It's amazing how this turns the slightly bitter flower into the flavor of a mushroom.

Calendulas, also known as pot marigold, used to be called poor man's saffron. The yellow or orange petals of the daisy-like flowers can be used like saffron, but to get the effect, you need to chop them and cook them with oil to bring out the color and flavor. Sauté some chopped onions in a bit of olive oil, add chopped calendula petals, rice, and boiling water or broth. The result is a beautiful side dish that looks like (and could be made into) Spanish paella. Calendula petals add pizzazz to carrot cake. Sprinkle petals on the cream cheese icing.

Squash blossoms have a mild vegetable flavor—similar to zucchini or yellow squash. All squash flowers are edible, from acorn to patty pan squash to crookneck squash and zucchini, of course.

Traditional in mediterranean cuisine, squash

blossoms are usually stuffed with flavored breadcrumbs or ricotta cheese and sautéed or fried. Pumpkin and gourd flowers are also edible. As far as zucchinis are concerned, they seem to grow from small tasty fruits to baseball bats overnight; you can never keep up with them. Eating the flowers is sort of like birth control for the plants—the more flowers you eat, the less zucchini you have to deal with.

'Lemon Gem' and 'Tangerine Gem' marigolds (*Tagetes tenuifolia*) with their fernlike foliage are the only edible marigolds. They have a citrusy-tarragon flavor, but little scent. When you pull the petals from the flower, break off the right-angled portion; it is bitter. Marigolds add spice to something as common as deviled eggs.

One of the best things about edible flowers is that they make ordinary family food into something fit for a visit from royalty. Their colors add excitement and the flowers themselves add zest to any dish.

Most herb flowers are safe to eat; their flavor is milder and sweeter than the leaves. Try growing arugula, basil, chives, cilantro, dill, fennel, garlic chives, mustard, and society garlic. Adding flowers to a dish as mundane as potato salad or macaroni salad (especially from the deli) transforms it into something special.

What is best about edible flowers is that they are as beautiful in the garden as they are tasty in the kitchen. They are dual-purpose plants that can be included in any type of garden—formal, cottage, or mixed border. No matter where you grow them, pick them like fruit—in their prime—and enjoy them for all their attributes. □

*From the National Garden Bureau.*

## FALL'S TOP TEN: HOW TO SAVE WATER AND WHEN

BY DAN CARNEY

SAN DIEGO — MARK YOUR CALENDAR! October 26th is when Daylight Saving Time comes to an end and clocks fall back one hour. Although fall arrives in Southern California inconspicuously, some subtle clues that reveal the new season are shorter days, cooler temperatures, and changes in leaf colors. During the transition from summer to fall, it is important also to review and change your water usage so that you can maintain a responsible approach toward saving this natural resource.

The ten guidelines listed below provide ways in which you can conserve water this fall season.

1. Adjust the watering schedule on your irrigation controller. With the shorter days and less sunlight, plants need less water, even if the weather is still warm. An average lawn needs 25 percent less water in the fall than during the summer months.
2. Replace old batteries in your sprinkler irrigation system with new ones to ensure that the system will operate properly and according to schedule.
3. Water between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m., preferably on less windy days. These darker and cooler hours of day during the fall are when less evaporation occurs.
4. Trouble shoot sprinklers that waste water. For example, check water pressure and filters regularly to keep your drip irrigation system in good working order.
5. Prevent watering on rainy days by installing a moisture sensor to an automatic sprinkler system, or turn the system off when it rains.
6. Retain moisture in the soil by using mulch. Mulching also helps to control weeds that compete with plants for water.
7. Incorporate native and drought-tolerant plants and grasses into your landscapes and gardens to take advantage of less water-dependent vegetation. Fall is an ideal time for planting. To get ideas for what to plant, visit the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College or view their website at [www.the.garden.org](http://www.the.garden.org).
8. Reposition rain gutters so that runoff from them is directed toward the plants in your landscaped areas.
9. Cover your pool and spa to reduce water loss due to normal evaporation. There is a natural decrease in pool and spa use as the weather gets cooler. This also will help to keep it clean.
10. Remember that during the fall, plants need less water. Many plants are in their dormant phase and either change color or shed their leaves to prepare for the coming cold weather. These plants don't require as much water as they do during the dry, hot season. Use the City of San Diego Water Department's landscape watering calculator to ensure that you are using the correct amount of water. This resource tool is designed to produce a custom weekly schedule that defines the right amount of water your garden may need according to season and plant type. To create a customized irrigation schedule,

visit:

[www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation](http://www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation).

Adapt to the seasonal change in water use by following these guidelines. Remember that no matter how mild the weather, water conservation is a year-round effort. □

*Dan Carney is a Landscape Architect with the City of San Diego Water Department.*

## SATELLITES OBSERVE WAYS TO CONSERVE

BY LUIS GENEROSO

SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY WILL SOON be an integral part of water conservation efforts in San Diego. For the first time, the City of San Diego will use satellite imagery to help accurately determine water budgets for landscaped areas citywide. The project is a partnership between the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the City of San Diego Water Department.

AgriCast Company, the technical consultant, will turn the satellite imagery from multispectral color images into a functioning Geographical Information System (GIS) map. From this map, the Water Department can estimate overall water usage and determine how much water is needed to maintain the landscape.

"It is estimated that by properly watering the existing landscapes, the overall water use in the City can be reduced by at least 10 percent," said Dan Carney, Water Department Landscape Architect. "Information gained from this map could save consumers millions of dollars each year."

In addition to assisting water conservation efforts, the new map will provide information that can be used for environmental impact studies, fire prevention efforts, city planning, storm water runoff studies, and other applications.

This project began in June, 2004, and will be completed in one year.

The Water Conservation Program reduces water demand through promoting or providing incentives for the installation of hardware that provides permanent water savings, and by providing services and information to help San Diegans make better decisions about water use. For more information about Water Conservation, visit [www.sandiego.gov/water](http://www.sandiego.gov/water) or call (619)515-3500. □

*Luis Generoso is the City of San Diego Water Resources Manager.*

## WHY DO TREES CHANGE COLOR IN THE FALL?

BY DAN CARNEY

YOU HAVE PROBABLY NOTICED leaves changing colors—from green to shades of yellow, purple, and red—on native trees such as sycamores, cottonwoods, and deciduous oaks. But did you know that sunlight plays a key role in changing the leaf colors? The autumnal equinox, on September 22, marks the beginning of cooler days and longer nights in the Northern Hemisphere. Because the sun spends fewer hours in the sky and the light is less intense, the pigments in the leaves begin to change. The pigment chlorophyll causes the green leaf color we usually see. Because chlorophyll absorbs all the colors in the light spectrum except green, which it reflects, we only see the green color.

Chlorophyll requires sunlight and warmth to remain active in many deciduous trees. So when temperatures drop, so does the production of this green pigment. As a result, the other pigments that are not as dependent on light and temperature get a chance to show off their colors.

Each type of plant has a unique mixture of pigments. Yellow leaves are caused by the pigment carotene, which absorbs blue-green and green light and reflects yellow. Another interesting group of pigments is the anthocyanins. They make the leaves look red and purple, and are the same pigments that make apples appear red and grapes purple.

Along with changing color, plants also decrease the amount of water they need during the fall. In fact, between September 22 and December 21, an average lawn needs 25 percent less water than during the summer months. It's a great time of the year to save money on your water bill and help your plants stay healthy.

To help you adjust your watering during the fall, the city of San Diego offers an easy-to-use online Landscape watering calendar designed to custom produce a weekly schedule that will estimate the right amount of water to give your garden. The calculator considers weather patterns, soil, plant and irrigation types when creating the schedules. Create your watering schedule today by accessing the calculator at: [www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation](http://www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation). □



# BERRY GOOD PLANTS<sup>®</sup>

BY PAT PAWLOWSKI

I'LL NEVER FORGET MY first Phainopepla.

Surprise, excitement, incredulity raced through every atom of my being.

Probably just how you felt when you discovered your first Phainopepla.

## THERE IS MORE TO A GARDEN THAN PLANTS

Unbelievable as it seems to this fledgling birder, there may be a few (or a few million) persons around who have no clue what a Phainopepla is. Although it sounds as though it may be the name of an exotic veggie, architectural element, or exceptionally threatening precancerous growth, *Phainopepla nitens* is a funky-looking bird with a red eye (actually, two) and a sort of spiky mohawk arrangement of feathers on the top of its head. Males are shiny black; females and adolescents are grayish-brown. Both species have that aforementioned distinctive crest, very similar to a current hairstyle seen around town. If you've seen one, you'll remember it (the bird). Also the hairstyle.

Anyway, I saw my first Phainopepla sitting in my Mexican elderberry, or *Sambucus mexicana* tree. To make things crystal clear, the bird was in the tree; I was kneeling on the ground, pulling on a weed. It was a thrilling moment for me. I rushed into the house to get my camera and managed to take several pretty bad pictures.

I guess you had to be there.

The point of this story is that if I had no elderberry tree (whose berries are favored by many bird species) and had I not been gardening, I would not have had the almost religious experience with the Phainopepla.

## BERRY BENEFITS FOR ALL

Birds are not the only ones who go bonkers over berries. Discriminating persons will appreciate the sight of jewel-like redberries and satiny purple beautyberries glistening in the sun. Berries can certainly be gorgeous. And they do attract birds.

Birds, besides bringing beauty and interest, also provide mostly cost-free and hassle-free pest control. No need to sink into bankruptcy buying all kinds of stuff to kill insects; no need to risk your life dodging Frankenstein Monster SUVs in the Godzilla home hardware store parking lot; just plant some bird-attracting bushes and you can rest easy on your patio.

## FRUITFUL FACTS



*Heteromeles arbutifolia* toyon

Although not every species of bird visits every area in San Diego County, you can get a fair feathered sampling if you have things a bird considers necessary to life: Food, water, shelter, and a place to bear young. For now, we'll concentrate on bird food, food in the form of fruits and berries. Perhaps a seedy article by me will appear in the future.

To confuse things further, berries are always fruits but fruits are not necessarily berries. Berries are fruits derived from a single ovary and having a fleshy wall and many seeds. Interestingly enough, some examples of berries are grapes and tomatoes.

That's enough about that.

## NATIVES BEARING BERRIES

Here are some California native plants bearing exceptional fruits and berries. You can get most, if not all, of these at Las Pilitas Native Plant Nursery in Escondido.

Mexican elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*) — Semi-deciduous small tree with creamy white sweet-smelling

flowers. Likes regular water. Bluish fruits attract many kinds of birds.

Sugarbush (*Rhus ovata*) — Handsome evergreen tree-shrub with tiny pale pink blooms. Is very drought tolerant, good inland. Besides providing berries for birds, sugarbush is a perching place for small butterflies such as elfins, hairstreaks, and blues. On a sunny morning, the butterflies will alight, move this way, then that way, until the angle of the sun is perpendicular to their wings. According to David Marriott, director of the Monarch Program, the scales on butterfly wings act as tiny solar panels, collecting the heat they need to warm them.

Lemonadeberry (*Rhus integrifolia*) — Evergreen tree-shrub. Drought tolerant, similar to sugarbush, but better along the coast. Good for erosion control. Berries of this plant, as those of the sugarbush, can be steeped in water to create a refreshing drink.

Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) — One of the best-looking evergreen natives. Birds love the red berries, which appear in late fall. As with many natives, toyon sometimes takes a year or so to establish roots, and during this time growth may appear to be slow or non-existent. "Then all of a sudden," says Valerie Phillips of Las Pilitas Nursery, "they take off." Growth can speed up dramatically, so it pays to be patient.

Coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*) — Good-looking evergreen shrubs with red berries turning black. Host plant for the pale swallowtail. Black berries of the cultivar 'Leatherleaf' have a coffeelike taste, with a somewhat bitter aftertaste (similar to my own homemade coffee).

Redberry (*Rhamnus crocea*) — Tiny-leaved evergreen with tiny glittery red berries. Cute, and good on slopes.

Oregon grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*) — Glossy pinnate leaves, bright yellow flowers, and blue fruits.

Currants and gooseberries (*Ribes* sp.) — Small to medium shrubs that appeal to a wide variety of birds.

California wild grape (*Vitis californica*) — Fruit very popular in the bird community. Easy to grow; can be trained on trellis or left to sprawl as a ground cover.

Wild strawberry (*Fragaria californica*) — Spreading perennial with small edible fruits. Nice, orderly ground cover. Needs sufficient water if grown in sun.

Thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*) — Needs shade and moisture.

Blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*) — Needs water and space; berries are good.

Chuck Berry (*Rockus musiciansis*) — Best for livening up the garden area with vocal effusions. For those wishing effusions of a more soothing nature, there

is always Berry Manilow.

## EXOTICS EXUDING BERRIES

My very favorite exotic berry-bearing bush is the beautyberry, true to its name. Beautyberries (*Callicarpa* sp.) are deciduous shrubs, six feet more or less, which produce fantastically purple berries, a treat for the eyes to behold.

Others include:

Night blooming jasmine (*Cestrum nocturnum*) — This large, fast-growing evergreen shrub has creamy white flowers and sassy white berries. Although cheerfully eaten by birds, these berries are poisonous to others. Flowers have a very strong fragrance; if sensitive, don't inhale.

Pyracantha (*Pyracantha* sp.) — Serious thorns adorn these evergreen bushes. The orange-red berries appeal to birds, maybe too much so. Drunken revels caused by overripe berries have been observed by concerned birders.

Viburnum (*Viburnum* sp.) — Good-looking, diverse group of plants for sun or part shade.

Strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*) — Evergreen shrub-trees with tolerance or wide range of conditions. Tiny urn-shaped flowers. Red and yellow strawberrylike fruit with almost no taste, similar to some supermarket varieties.

Hummocksuckle (*Lonicera* sp.) — Impetuous vines, many with wonderfully fragrant flowers. Hummingbirds and cuddly sphinx moths like the nectar. Berries appeal to many bird species.

Loquat (*Eriobotrya japonica*) — Evergreen tree with big toothy leaves. Toothsome yellow fruits are eaten by birds. For fruit to be eaten by people, choose a grafted variety. Blossoms attract hummingbirds.

Grape (*Vitis* sp.) — Huge deciduous vine with classic leaves. Needs training and pruning. People vie with birds to get the delicious fruit. Given enough time, some species of grapes make a quite satisfying beverage.

## BERRILY, BERRILY

After you've berried your yard sufficiently, you will soon see the fruits of your labors. There will be the added color, form, and charm to your garden, not to mention all the new interesting feathered visitors. As you gaze upon all this you will surely say, "Wow—it's the berries!" □

Copyright by Pat Pawlowski, who a writer/lecturer and the wildlife garden designer for Animated Gardens, 619-390-9399.

Photographs by the author.

# from my rose garden ~

by helen hamrick

California Garden asked Helen Hamrick to tell us how she feels in her garden and about her roses. You can find care instructions for those flowers on the next page written by her gardener Elaine Burdon. Her garden is in Dehesa Valley. Helen writes as if talking to herself.

FOG LIFTS AND THE sun appears from behind the clouds. Bees are active. I see a butterfly and wonder where are all the butterflies. Then I learn it is leaf-cutter bees, not caterpillars, that have left the "hole" design in rose leaves.

How relaxing to take hose in hand to wash away rose problems of mildew and aphids. Lady beetles seem happy. A dragon fly appears in the misty dew.

Yesterday's rose buds are showing color. In a day or two I must shape the hybrid teas and grandifloras by cutting stems and to select the color to complement the decor of each room. The red 'Veterans Honor' roses will be regal in the entry. My kind neighbor likes the yellow. Remember to leave a long stem 'Gold Medal' on the porch. She will know it is for her when she brings the newspaper down the long driveway on her morning walk.

Growing roses is an ongoing learning experience. Adding climbing roses requires new knowledge in their care. I must learn to prune shrub roses recently planted. A new word is added to my vocabulary for the Rugosa roses planted along the driveway among other flowering plants. Research tells me the word "rugose" means wrinkled in Latin. As a student of Betty Newton, I learned the importance of identifying a plant by the botanical name and the reason Latin was a required high school course. You may be surprised at what you get if you order a plant by a common name.

Oh, changes have taken place in the landscape. On a weekend a few years ago a newspaper article under the heading "New in the Nursery" caught my eye. After a couple of phone calls a quick trip was made to the nursery to buy three 'Flower Carpet' roses in the pink containers before they were all gone. They hung from the porch eaves until they needed more space, at which time they were planted along the walkway leading to the porch. The 'Flower Carpet' was again moved, providing ground cover for a bank, the deep pink blending well with lavender verbenas planted by

birds. A squirrel topiary of tiny yellow-green leaves with creamy white edges, a variegated form of *Euonymus*, reigns over the bank.

Two 'Magic Carousel's, container plants for many years, are doing so well at their new location in the bed by the walkway they are crowding three 'Lavender Sunblazes'. A new home must be found for these compact miniatures.

We also have other roses in this area with trees: 'Perfect Moment', 'Sunny Side Up', 'Peace', 'Chicago Peace', 'Chrysler Imperial', 'Double Delight', 'Queen Elizabeth', 'Color Magic', 'Touch of Class', and 'Pristine'.

When you come to my rose garden please notice the *Calliandra tweedii* (of the pink powder-puff family, but more lacy and fernlike) with red flowers appearing over the wall.

Stop to enjoy a fruit from a *Passiflora edulis* if you have outwitted the squirrels.

I hope the 'Altissimo' climbing on the white rail fence at the driveway entrance will be a "Welcome to My Garden." □

(below: Flowers flourish in spite of trees in their midst. Photograph by Ann Harkins.)





# DOING RIGHT BY THE ROSES

BY ELAINE YOUEL BURDON,  
WITH BETTY NEWTON

BENEATH A CANOPY OF dappled shade created by a sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*); liquidambar (*Liquidambar styraciflua*); and eldarica pine, a garden of hybrid tea and grandiflora roses grows. The residence is in East County — El Cajon/Dehesa. Not more than 15 by 20 feet, the garden is turned so that, with the sun's shift through the seasons, the roses get enough light for essential photosynthesis.

Roses grown in the garden are 'Double Delight', 'Peace', 'Gold Medal', and 'Queen Elizabeth'. They bear satisfactorily (Elaine is *being modest*) in organically amended decomposed granite soil. The amendments increase the soil's nutrient and water holding capacity.

Supplemental watering beyond the routine drip irrigation is necessary periodically, drenching to leach salts. The property is on a well and the roses usually receive ground water purported to be higher in salt content than conventional water delivery. Additional watering is done both before and after application of nutrients to bring those closer to the roots.

Nutrients are given in January or February to the above roses as well as to 'Pristine', 'Color Magic', 'Veterans Honor', and others along a nearby walk. Feeding is done following pruning — the grandiflora roses by one third and hybrid teas by one-half their previous season's growth.

## FEEDING

An organic amendment regimen is observed (after the rest period), consisting of a light feeding of a low nitrogen fertilizer with an NPK ratio of 2-1-1. Also the micronutrients: magnesium, sulfur, iron, manganese, and zinc with added gypsum are given and increased in amount as the potential for plant growth rate increases in March and April.

The months of May, June, and July are those of maximum feeding. The plants are in need of additional nutrients, synthetic or organic, for continued maximum display of large, healthy foliage and flowers.

With increased growth comes a proliferation of the pests and diseases. Frequently the suggestion to substitute pest and disease resistant hybrids is not acceptable. We want *these* varieties; therefore fighting pest and disease in the existing roses must become a regular practice.

First choice and least invasive (harmful) to beneficial insects, the pest control to be used is dual purpose.

Water is applied via a hose-end sprayer "blasting" pests from leaves and buds and cleansing all plant parts of dirt.

Biological and botanical means can be employed also in managing the intrusion of pests. Second and third least harmful to the plants are oils like summer weight horticultural oil and botanicals, which are effective depending on the stages of growth of insects. Enviropel and Citrall are soaps containing ingredients that either act as a repellent or kill some pests on contact.

There will be a noticeable decrease in pest and disease as plant growth slows and as the maximum spring display passes. In August, we select a fertilizer with lower percentages of nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium so that the feeding is a light one, about like February. How much will depend on the size of the plant.

In the month of September, in anticipation of a fall bloom, nutrients are applied as in the spring months.

October to January a regular schedule is followed to encourage the roses to go into dormancy. We reduce the frequency and duration of watering. After the last bloom in November or December, roses are allowed to form hips whereby the largest amount of nutrients left are concentrated at these areas to force effectively the roses to rest.

Ongoing annual care of the garden includes pH testing on occasion in tandem with *an application every three months of cottonseed meal and planter mix/mulch to a depth of four or five inches*. That will be made of 60% VERY OLD horse manure, 20% straw, and 20% forest products with an NPK of about 3-2-2. This is incorporated into existing soil to allow the beneficial mycorrhizal fungi easier access in the process of breaking down organics for the use of plant materials. These fungi are desirable in that by building on the roots they make them more efficient. □

*Elaine Burdon is a long time professional gardener. Her company is Growing Development. Her inclination, after much study and experience, is organic, or non-man-made chemical gardening.*



A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES,  
UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, AND *CALIFORNIA GARDEN STAFF*

## Now Is the Time . . .

### AFRICAN VIOLETS

Barbara Conrad

#### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO WASH** your hands and tools after grooming each plant to avoid spreading any unseen insects.

**TO THROW** old violet soil outside after repotting, as the nutrients break down and are no longer helpful to the violet.

**TO TRY** putting down violet leaves in an equal mixture of perlite and vermiculite to propagate new plants. This process will take two to three months.

**TO TRANSPLANT** babies by removing them from the mother leaf when their leaves are the size of dimes or nickels.

**TO CREATE** a greenhouse for new plants with a plastic bag over the top of the pot, secured with a rubber band. Cut a tiny hole for a minimum of air circulation.

**TO USE** the Internet to search for questions on the cultivation of African violets.

### BEGONIAS

Margaret Lee

#### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO FEED** tuberous begonias in September as long as the leaves remain green.

**TO START** withholding water from the tuberous variety in October and do not feed them again.

**TO PINCH** back and give a final feeding of the year to your regular begonias in October, unless you have fed all year with a balanced fertilizer.

**TO TAKE** cuttings and plant them to increase your collection and to share.

### BONSAI San Diego Bonsai Club

#### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO ADJUST** watering schedule to the variable weather. Shallow pots may require two or three daily waterings on hot, dry, windy days.

**TO TRANSPLANT** wisteria if you want blossoms next spring.

**TO REPOT** quince, olives, and podocarpus.

**TO MOVE** deciduous trees to cool, shaded areas if you live in Southern California so they will not sprout any new growth.

**TO FERTILIZE** only lightly or not at all in October if you fertilized in September.

**TO WAIT** until spring for any major transplanting.

### BROMELIADS

Mary Siemers

#### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO WATER** plants according to the weather (temperature), but do not allow the soil to become soggy.

**TO CUT** new offshoots (pups) and pot them while weather is still warm. Offshoots must be  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  the size of the mother plant.

**TO KEEP** plants clean by cutting spent blooms and dead leaves.

**TO REPOT** plants that need larger pots (use next size larger).

**TO ALWAYS USE** new potting mix, making sure it is one that allows fast drainage.

**TO GIVE** bright light, up to 50 percent sunshine in coastal areas.

### CACTI & SUCCULENTS

Joseph A. Betzler

#### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO WATCH** plants and fertilize less as they go dormant. The winter growers need more fertilizer and water as they start to grow.

**TO MAINTAIN** the growth pattern of the plant. Look for signs of growth as the season changes.

**TO WATCH** weather situations as changes can occur very fast in our area. Be sure to protect from the hot days that still may occur.

**TO TRANSPLANT** actively growing seedlings and rooted cuttings now so they can get established before winter.

**TO CLEAN** the area where plants are grown.

**TO PREVENT** insect pests from building into major

problems. Look at your plants carefully and check for mealybugs, mites, aphids, and snails; treat appropriately.

**TO FEED** Christmas cacti with 0-10-10 to stimulate bloom.

## CALIFORNIA NATIVES

Jeanine De Hart

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO GET READY** for fall planting in late October and November. Check out where the sales are in your area. In San Diego County, the CNPS has theirs in Balboa Park, Lake Hodges Native Plant Club has one in Rancho Bernardo, and I'm sure there are others.

**TO INCREASE** watering as the rainy season approaches. When watering, always water deep to force the roots down. That is how these plants become drought tolerant when they mature.

**TO FERTILIZE** with a weak solution. I find that ½ strength is about right. Do not fertilize your newly-planted natives, only the ones that have been in the ground about six months.

**TO REMOVE** weeds. Weeds are much more efficient at extracting nutrients from the soil than natives are.

**TO CHECK** your yard for the places you are going to plant natives. There are natives for every situation, wet or dry, sun or shade. It is just a matter of finding the right plant for the right place.

**TO CUT** Matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*) to the ground. If you want to take root cuttings, wait two to three weeks after cutting them down. This plant blooms on new wood and will start to grow almost immediately.

**TO ASK** your nursery to carry more natives. This will encourage other gardeners to grow them.

## CAMELIAS

Jay Vermilya

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO MAINTAIN** a regular watering program during bud development. Keep plants moist but not wet.

**TO FEED** monthly (September-January) with a bloom-enhancing fertilizer such as 0-10-10 or 2-10-10 to encourage bud development.

**TO CONTINUE** insect control as in summer.

**TO CONTINUE** to disbud plants if fewer but larger blooms are desired. The degree of disbudding is a personal decision. Consider leaving only one bud per cluster. For show-quality blooms, as few as one bud per branch may be left.

**TO ENJOY** varieties of *sasanqua* or *vernalis* species now in bloom.

## DAHLIAS

Abe Janzen

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO CLEAN** up old leaves and stalks, preparing for fall and winter.

**TO SPRAY** to prevent mildew and spider mites.

**TO MAINTAIN** a regular watering program until the first of October, then cut down watering gradually.

**TO FEED** with potash to promote good root growth. It also helps to keep plants healthier during the winter.

## EPIPHYLLUMS (Orchid Cactus)

San Diego Epiphyllum Society

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO PROTECT** plants from exposure to direct sunlight.

**TO SPRAY-MIST** to provide moisture during warm spells and keep stems clean and free of dust. Spraying of foliage occasionally can be beneficial.

**TO PREVENT** soil from completely drying out.

**TO PROTECT** new growth from wind damage; stake plants and carefully tie to a trellis.

**TO CHECK** for snails and slugs; a few granules of Sluggeta at the base of the plant are often effective and leave little to no residue.

**TO GIVE** plants a final feeding for fall — use a balanced fertilizer before they become semi-dormant.

## FERNS

San Diego Fern Society

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO REMOVE** dead fronds.

**TO PLANT** spores of all varieties.

**TO PROTECT** from hot sun, but give maximum light.

**TO WATER** and maintain humidity by keeping surrounding areas damp but not soggy.

**TO FERTILIZE** once with high nitrogen fertilizer.

**TO CHECK** for aphids, mealy bugs and scale; if present, use Malathion-50.

**TO KEEP** snails, pill bugs, and slugs under control use metaldehyde granules.

## FRUIT TREES AND VINES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO CONTINUE** periodic, thorough irrigation to maintain adequate soil moisture until winter rains begin.



**TO OPERATE** drip irrigation systems until we receive at least two inches of rain to prevent salt injury.

**TO PRUNE** out dead and severely damaged shoots of deciduous trees before foliage drops.

**TO COVER** maturing grape clusters with paper bags (poke small holes in the bags for ventilation) to protect maturing fruit from yellow jackets and birds.

**TO CHECK** on maturity of kiwi fruit. Maturity is measured by a change in seed color from white to brown or black. Pick large fruit first, but harvest before fruit softens.

## FUCHSIAS

San Diego Fuchsia and Shade Plant Society

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO PICK** off spent blooms and seed pods.

**TO MAINTAIN** humidity by keeping areas sprayed. Be careful not to overwater, but mist during hot, dry, windy days. It is best to water in the early morning or in the cool of evening.

**TO CONTINUE** fertilizing for fall and winter blooms.

**TO SPRAY** as required for insect control. Be sure to wet the underside of leaves, the hiding place for egg laying.

**TO MAKE** cuttings while removing leggy growth — use the tender tips. October is a better month to propagate new plants.

**TO KEEP** cuttings in a cool place for four to six days; keep moist but not wet or soggy.

## HERBS

John Noble

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO HARVEST** and dry ginkgo leaves, yerba mansa roots, rose hips, lemon grass leaves, vitex berries, comfrey roots, fennel seeds, and coral bell roots.

**TO DRY** flowers for bouquets and wreaths. Include roses, lavender, sweet annie, statice, and yarrow.

**TO PRUNE** back dried leaves and dried flowers of the summer flowering perennials — daylily, lily-of-the-nile, foxglove, feverfew, mullein, mint, sage, and thyme.

**TO AMEND** the garden with fresh compost.

**TO PLANT** saffron bulbs, mints, parsley, calendula, rosemary, and lavender.

**TO WALK** through your herb garden after the first rain and inhale the wonderful scents that you have planted.

## IRIS

San Diego/Imperial Counties Iris Society

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO CLEAN** beds and discard old fans and debris.

**TO DIVIDE** and plant clumps of bearded irises.

**TO FEED** established tall bearded that are not being divided.

**TO PLANT** beardless irises: spuria, Siberian, Louisiana, and Japanese varieties. Louisiana and Japanese are grown in pots, pools, or in swampy conditions.

**TO PLANT** Dutch irises in October for spring bloom.

## ORCHIDS

Charles Fouquette

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO SPRAY** and mist on hot, dry, windy days. Santa Ana winds could be variable this year, so plan on keeping the moisture up for outside-growing orchids.

**TO CONTINUE** a general feeding and pest abatement program.

**TO WHACK** the ANT movement. They are the ones that bring the mealybug, scale, and a host of other undesirables.

**TO KEEP** the growing area picked up and clean.

**TO ESPECIALLY KEEP** vandacious plants damp because they have no natural water storage facilities. Keep *Vanda* roots misted and you will see that little green root tip that tells you the plant is doing fine.

**TO FEED** *Cymbidiums* a low nitrogen fertilizer. Noble *Dendrobiums* should be tapered down to a light 0-10-10 or 0-20-20. They need to go into a semi-dormant stage where they are kept barely damp. When buds swell in spring, resume normal care.

**TO EITHER PULL** *Catasetums* out of their pots and repot when new growth is apparent or keep them very dry over the winter, then in spring resume normal fertilizing and watering.

**TO PREPARE** *Cattleyas* for a fall bloom. Check that there is no water in the sheaths, that they are staked well. Do not move them once the flowers have developed.

**TO KEEP** most *Brassias* and the *Oncidium* Alliance Hybrids warm, above 65 degrees with plenty of air movement. Some can be grown outside.

**TO ATTEND** your local Orchid Society meetings.

## PELARGONIUMS (GERANIUMS)

Carol Roller

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO WATER** thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Allow the excess water to drain away.

Water in advance of a Santa Ana. Keep foliage as dry as possible.

**TO CONTINUE** feeding soilless mixes with a soluble, balanced fertilizer containing micronutrients. Use less than the recommended amount, but apply as often as necessary to avoid nutritional deficiencies.

**TO CONTINUE** a pest control and disease prevention program using all products according to the manufacturers' instructions.

**TO BEGIN** pruning, even if plants are still blooming. On regals, scented, and similar types at least one green leaf should be left on each stem being cut back.

**TO MAKE** cuttings from prunings. Trim and insert into a moistened, sterile medium. Shelter cuttings from extreme weather.

**TO KEEP** all the plants tidy by removing faded flowers and discolored leaves.

**TO CONTINUE** to rotate container plants regularly in order to keep them well shaped.

## ROSES

Marianne Truby

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO PREPARE** your bushes for fall bloom by removing twiggy, dead, or diseased growth, and reduce canes that are leggy and out of proportion to the plant. Remove all diseased leaves, paint any cuts the size of a pencil or larger with white glue to deter borers that may appear at this time of the year.

**TO REFRESH** mulch and cultivate soil around bushes to remove weeds and improve water penetration. Continue to water deeply by flooding the basin around each bush several times each watering period. The most economical method of watering is hand watering, and it is a great time to really SEE your plants.

**TO LEARN** to adjust to varying weather conditions, such as Santa Ana winds. Maintain moisture level in the ground and keep foliage clean by washing down early in the morning.

**TO VISIT** fall flower shows and/or gardens whenever the opportunity arises to observe plants during their fall bloom, often the most beautiful of the year.

**TO REALIZE** that all roses vary in their growth habits, color, form, and quality of bloom based upon the locale where they are planted. Roses grown in coastal communities seldom do as well in areas in East County where heat and dry conditions will provide a completely different environment. The moist coastal climate will produce excessive mildew on some varieties. New introductions frequently produce large plants (6' to 7' tall). Is your garden suitable for a bush of that size?

## VEGETABLES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO REMOVE** warm-season vegetables badly damaged by pests or diseases and those that are past their prime production period.

**TO PREPARE** soil for planting cool-season vegetables by incorporating composted organic matter and a pre-plant fertilizer high in phosphorus. Begin planting cool-season vegetables: broccoli, Brussels sprouts, beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, endive, fava beans, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, parsley, peas, potatoes (white), spinach, and turnips.

**TO BUY** seed of short-day onion hybrids like 'Grano' and 'Granex', as well as garlic cloves to plant in November for bulb production next summer. Onion sets can be planted for a quick crop of green onions but not for bulbs.

**TO DIG** sweet potatoes before any danger of frost. Be careful not to bruise roots. Dry thoroughly (one to two weeks), wrap in newspaper, and store close to 60°F.

## VEGETABLES, ANNUALS

from UC Cooperative Extension Publications

### NOW IS ONE OF THE BETTER TIMES IN FROST-FREE AREAS

**TO PUT IN TRANSPLANTS OF:** broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower — aster, baby's breath, canterbury bell, carnation, cineraria, daisy (African, Shasta, English), delphinium, Chinese forget-me-not, foxglove, hollyhock, lobelia (in Sept.), pot marigold (*Calendula officinalis*), fairy primrose (*Primula malacoides*), snapdragon, stock (*Matthiola incana*), sand verbena (*Abronia umbellata*), ranunculus, sweet William, pansy, and viola.

**TO PUT IN SEEDS OF:** beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, endive, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, onions (dry, in Oct.), parsley, parsnips, peas, potatoes (Sept.), radishes, spinach, and turnips — alyssum, baby blue eyes, baby's breath, bachelor's button, African daisy, candytuft, columbine, gloriosa daisy (in Oct.), delphinium, forget-me-not, Chinese forget-me-not, gazania, hollyhock, and wildflowers.

**IN ADDITION TO SOME OF THE ABOVE, ALSO SUGGESTED** (by Hortus "the art of gardening", ARE: NATIVES—*Ceanothus* 'Concha', *Arctostaphylos* (manzanita) 'Howard McMinn', *Salvia apiana*, *Romneya coulteri* (matilija poppy), and *Penstemon spectabilis*. —WILDFLOWERS—*Clarkia amoena* and *C. unguiculata*, Flanders Field poppy, larkspur (*Consolida ambigua* and *C. regalis*), and scarlet flax.



## GARDENING BY THE MOON

### *knowing the right times in the garden*

BY PAM CIAMPI

GARDENING BY THE MOON is an age-old method of timing activities in the garden in accord with the phases of the moon. The method was kept alive for many centuries through word of mouth. In the twentieth century it was expanded by Rudolph Steiner who called it biodynamic gardening. The Farmer's Almanac familiarized us with the system and the New Age carried it on. Like a perennial plant, gardening by the moon keeps returning each season.

But does it work? As they say, the proof is in the pudding. If using the moon phases to tell the times that are best for planting certain flowers, herbs, vegetables, and for weeding and for harvesting didn't work, it would have died out long ago and passed into the annals of history.

At first the idea that the moon in the sky could have influence on plants and vegetables may seem a bit irrational but then it is a scientific fact that the moon has some kind of influence on gravity, which in turn causes the ebb and flow of the tides. Is it not possible that the moon can also have an affect on the ebb and flow of life in the garden?

*As it is above, so it is below*

It is interesting to note that the correlation between the moon and the garden is not believed to be one of direct influence. Rather it is a relationship of correspondence. The phases of the moon in the sky above are said to correspond to the phases of growth below on earth. In the same sense that a clock doesn't make time; a clock simply tells the time; the idea of the moon as a celestial clock is that the moon doesn't *make* the garden grow, the moon tells the times of growth and decrease in the garden.

Unlike the face of a clock the moon has no numbers or hands, but the face of the moon tells the time as it grows and fades in light. The name for this

changing light is phases. The phases of the moon are a reflection of the different angles of sunlight as its falls on the earth. Each phase tells of a different time, which is useful for a certain purpose. The new moon is like midnight, a time of quiet and darkness—the perfect time for increase, for planting and for sowing seeds in the dark of earth. The full moon is analogous to noon, a time of bright light, of completion—a time of decrease, for endings, for cutting back, weeding, and harvesting.

This article has introduced some ways of how to tell garden times by the moon but it is by no means conclusive. As with clock time there are many other factors that must be taken into consideration. Some of these factors are the positions of the moon in the zodiac signs as well as in which of the four elements (fire, air, earth, and water) the moon is positioned. Like any system, gardening by the moon has more to it than just knowing if the moon is waxing or waning

*There is a time for every purpose under heaven*

The main difference when gardening by the moon is in the planning stages. Instead of organizing garden tasks according to your mood or personal schedule, you begin to look first to the moon to see whether the time above suits your purpose below. It's free, it's natural, and it's available to everyone. But don't take my word for it, try it and see how well your garden will grow.

To learn about this subject consult *Gardening by the Light of the Moon* 2005, a garden planner, which is available from the author at 888.727.6478 or [pam@pciampi-astrology.com](mailto:pam@pciampi-astrology.com).

*Pam is a certified astrological professional, the President of the San Diego Astrology Society, a new member of the San Diego Floral Association, and an enthusiastic gardener.*



# FUN WITH FERNS

BY ROBERT HORWITZ

WE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, especially along the coastal strip, live in a fern growers paradise. Not only can we raise and enjoy native varieties, but there is a plethora of imported varieties to fill out the fern kingdom. Another good thing about ferns in general is that they can be grown indoors or out and in the ground or in containers.

In their natural habitat, ferns grow almost always in warm shade and the soil in which they grow is rich with humus provided by the leaves, buds, and flowers of the plants under which they grow. Continual moisture is another requirement provided by rain and/or moisture dripping from the plants above.



*Pteridium aquilinum* (bracken)

Propagation of ferns is by the spores that grow and mature on the underside of the leaf frond. These spores for the most part are very tiny and resemble dust particles. A fern garden adventure is to grow your own ferns from spores. Here is a method that has been found to be successful.

Obtain at least 1/5 teaspoon of spore material from your chosen fern. Keep in a sealed envelope until ready to sow. Use ground peat moss or good potting-soil mix for the spores to grow in. Put as much of this medium as you expect to use in a metal container. Put this in the oven at 350° for about 15 minutes. Allow to cool to room temperature. Moisten the amount of soil you plan to use with tap water that has been boiled for a few minutes. Mix well so that the soil is very damp, but not drippy.

A good container to use for the spore-seeding process is an empty sterile plastic cottage cheese container. Lay two inches of the soil into the container.

Pat down gently. Strew the spores around rather thickly on the surface of the soil. Then another set of gentle pats on the spores to get them into intimate contact with the soil. Cover with plastic wrap. Store the container on a window sill. Depending on the variety of fern, the surface will start getting covered with a soft tender green carpet. This in turn merges into individual plants. Keep the soil damp all this time.

After the individual ferns appear and display their identity, they can be transplanted into their own containers to stay in them or be put into the ground after they are big enough.

If you do try growing your own ferns, be sure that you do this during the time of year when the temperature never falls below 60°. Ferns respond to fertilizer, but only after they start maturing.

For more information, find the book *Ferns of San Diego County* by Helen Witham of The San Diego Natural History Museum. □

*Robert Horwitz is a retired space engineer who gardens in the Point Loma section of San Diego.*

*Adiantum capillus-veneris* (southern maidenhair fern)



*Ichijo School*  
OF IKEBANA  
San Diego Chapter

22nd Ichijo School

**Ikebana Exhibition and Bazaar**

**October 2 & 3, 2004**

**Saturday and Sunday**

11:00 am to 4:00 pm

**Demonstration**

1:00 pm & 2:00 pm

**Theme: Autumn Sky**

*Aki-no-Sora*

Casa del Prado, Room 101  
Balboa Park, San Diego

**Bazaar**

Ikebana Magazines, Books,  
Containers & Dry Materials

**Admission Free**



# TULIP FARM VISIT

BY ROBERT HORWITZ

YOUR TRAVELING GARDENER SPENT a rewarding morning visiting an internationally known tulip farm in Puyallup, Washington. It is considered one of the premier tulip raising places in the country. One reason for the reputation is that over the years they have developed many forms of hybrid tulips and many of these hybrids have been exported to Holland, which we have always considered the tulip capitol of the world.

The display area of the garden is beautifully laid-out in multiple beds of flowers. The beds are surrounded by brick tile pathways and wooden gazebos. On display are thousands of tulips, each variety massed together in separate beds. The varieties are indicated by clear and concise signs.

Some of the hybrid tulips are amazing in the variety of shapes, colors, and sizes. The colors vary from pure white, pink, yellow, red, violet, purple, dark red, and combinations of these colors. Some petals are fringed at the edges, which provides interesting silhouette shapes. It is interesting, too, that most of the bulbs produce only one flower on a two-foot stem with the tulip itself being as much as four inches deep.

Some of my favorites were 'The Union Jack' that has blossoms of raspberry red on an ivory-white background. There were three fringed varieties that stood out: one called 'Fancy Frill' that has ivory-white edges on a rose background; then there is 'Hamilton' that is buttercup yellow; and 'Black Parrot' that is deep purple with the inside of the flower a black-purple.

Another interesting group of tulips was small varieties that could be used as a ground cover and undergrowth for small trees and trimmed bushes. 'Lilac Wonder' is rosy-purple with a circular yellow base. 'Tarda', with bottle-green tinges is one that bears several flowers per bulb.

Back to Southern California. Along the coast, garden tulip growers have found that when the bulbs become available the gardener needs to put them in the refrigerator for two weeks to a month before planting. (Editor's Note: Be sure there are no apples in the refrigerator.) This process stimulates the over-the-winter environment that the bulbs need. Some nurseries are currently selling pre-cooled tulip bulbs. Tulips make lovely potted indoor plants during the blooming period.

The origin of the tulip before Holland was the Orient. When the Dutch were explorers and colonizers

in the East Indies they brought tulips to Holland. The owner of this tulip farm, VanLierop Bulb Farms, is many generations removed from Holland. It is a small world. □

See description of classes for Sept. and Oct. in "Horticultural Calendar."

All classes 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Coffee, sweets provided, bring your lunch. Register at 619-232-5762, more info at 619-298-5182.

## CLASSES WANTED

- ☐ Basic Oriental Flower Arranging for Beginners,  
Sept. 14, \$20, members, \$25, nonmembers
- ☐ Gourd Crafting: Start to Finish,  
Sept. 21 and 28, \$50, members, \$55, nonmembers, for two-class series
- ☐ An Illuminary Floral Design  
Oct. 5, \$20, members, \$25, nonmembers
- ☐ Bamboo Construction for a Flower Arrangement  
Oct. 12, \$25, members, \$30, nonmembers
- ☐ Swinging into Rhythm  
Oct. 19, \$20, members, \$25, nonmembers
- ☐ Pine Needle Basketry  
Oct. 26, \$20, members, \$25, nonmembers
- ☐ A Synergistic Floral Design  
Nov. 2, \$20, members, \$25, nonmembers
- ☐ A New Design for Thanksgiving  
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# LOTUSLAND

BY KARIN KRATZ

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN to Lotusland? San Diego Floral Association has reservations for a select group of fifty to visit this amazing estate and garden on Wednesday, October 20. It will be a compact one-day bus trip. The 37-acre Lotusland Estate is in the foothills of Montecito just east of the city of Santa Barbara. Upon arrival in the area, the bus will stop for a picnic lunch packed for the trip by Festivities Catering of San Diego. The bus will then park in a reserved space on-site.

A trained volunteer docent will lead a 2-hour walking tour (requires continuous walking) through the gardens at 1:30 p.m. Following the walking tour, there will be time to visit the Garden Shop (open only with admission) that offers plants grown on the Estate, fine gift items, and books.

Lotusland is a unique garden destination with a fascinating history. The property was the family home and site of a commercial nursery operated by Ralph Kinton Stevens from 1882 to 1896. E. Palmer and Marie Gavit of New York owned the property from 1916 to 1938. With several well-known architects, the Gavits added the main residence, perimeter wall, swimming pool, bathhouse, and extensive garden described in 1929 as semiformal Italian. After one intermediate owner, Madame Ganna Walska purchased the property in 1941.

Born Hanna Pucaz in 1887 in Brest-Litovsk Poland, Madame Ganna Walska was the stage name assumed by this extraordinary woman. As a singer and touring performer, she attracted the attention of audiences and individuals on both sides of the Atlantic, eventually marrying six times. It was at the encouragement of her last husband, Theos Bernard, that she purchased the California property. After the divorce, Madame Walska named the estate "Lotusland" in honor of the sacred Indian lotus growing in one of the ponds on the property.

Madame Walska then began to transform herself from socialite to garden designer. Feisty, intractable, and a "hands-on" head gardener, she worked with a number of well-known designers as she converted the gardens into a fantasy world of rare and exotic plants. In the 1970s, she even auctioned some of her jewelry in order to finance creation of the cycad garden. Madame Walska died in March of 1984 at age 97, leaving her garden and fortune to the Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation. For more detailed information on the gardens, visit its website at [www.lotusland.org](http://www.lotusland.org). The new desert garden was featured in April 2004 in *Architectural Digest*. □



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## LOTUSLAND

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# A "UNIT" OF WATER

BY MORT BRIGADIER

IF ALL THE WATER in the world (oceans, ice caps, aquifers, etc.) was represented by a 5 gallon bottle of water, the potable, drinkable water would be represented by an 8 ounce cup holding 6.4 ounces of water.

So what? you ask. What if only one percent of all the water in the world is drinkable? We always seem to have enough water to drink. As a matter of fact, doctors keep telling us that we don't drink enough. How do we measure water? It's all relative. The average person needs 8 cups of water a day. [Editor's note: In the news recently, a claim was made that no evidence could be found of a study being made that supported the eight glasses a day requirement. Perhaps something will turn up in the future shedding light on origination of this.] If a person is carrying a heavy pack, body armor, and military rifle, he/she would need to drink more than eight cups a day. We measure drinking water in number of 8 ounce cups.

Larger amounts of water, as in agriculture, manufacturing, processing, etc., are measured in "acre feet." Rainfall, irrigation, and evapotranspiration (ET) are measured in "inches." My water district uses "Units" of water, but no one knows what a unit of water is until they ask. So I asked. I received a lot of stuff that I did not previously know too much about.

## A UNIT OF WATER

A Unit of water is 100 square feet of water, or 10 cubic feet, or 748 gallons. At 8.3 pounds per gallon, a unit weighs over 6,000 pounds. It's a nice way not to tell folks how many gallons we are using. But, the same liquid and linear measurement is used for both "acre feet" of water and for "inches" of water.

## AN INCH OF WATER

An "inch" of water differs from a "Unit" of water. An inch of water is both a liquid and a **linear measurement**. When we use the term "an inch of water," what we are actually saying is "an inch of water will cover a square foot area to a depth of one inch (**on each and every square foot being watered**). An inch of water is 80 ounces, or ten 8-ounce cups, or 0.625 gallons. It weighs 5 pounds. Were you to apply it in an instant, it would crush your plants and most structures, but you can apply an inch of water (or a tenth of an inch) over an hour, a day, or a month.

## RAINFALL

Rainfall is a little different. Rainfall is the amount that it rains per square foot **over a 24-hour period** (on each and every square foot that it rains). If it were to rain an inch of water in an instant, it would crush your tomato plants and most roofs. But not to worry, the storms of February and March were an anomaly. It usually rains in tenths of an inch, or in hundredths of an inch, and over a 24-hour period.

## EVAPOTRANSPIRATION

Evapotranspiration is the transfer of water from the earth to the atmosphere. It is the amount of water used by plants to grow, to create oxygen, and to release water vapor. It is the amount of water that must be replaced by rainfall or by irrigation. Again, it is both a linear and a liquid measurement **per square foot** of land surface and/or of bush size or tree canopy. It is measured in tenths of an inch or in hundredths of an inch per day, per week, or per month.

## AN ACRE FOOT

Larger amounts of water, as in farming, manufacturing, or processing, are measured in "acre feet." An acre foot of water will cover an acre of land (43,560 square feet) to a depth of one foot. This amounts to 325,851 gallons or enough to sustain a family of four for one year, allowing them ample water to wash cars, irrigate lawns, cook, clean up, and contribute to pesticide runoff. (Editorial comment intended)! When a farmer irrigates an inch of water, he applies 27,154 gallons per acre. Some crops require 30 inches of irrigation water a year (less the amount of rainfall, if any).

## WHY A GALLON

Where did the term "gallon" originate? Searching the Internet, I arrived at the Website of Dr. Mark Leipik, noted science professor and author, who says, "A gallon was the amount of ale that the king could drink at one sitting." But that is not why they made him king. They made him king because he owned the brewery. They did not know about "units of water" in those days or a gallon **might have been** called a "unit." □

*"Mr. Mort" is a Master Gardener and a Habitat Steward. He gardens with children at Magnolia Elementary School and with active seniors at La Vida Real.*

# ARE INSECTS "BUGGING YOU?"

BY MORT BRIGADIER

NO NEED TO SPRAY. Put the chemicals away. Call the Master Gardener to find a better way.

The question most people ask when they go to the local garden store is "What can I spray for insects?" Store clerks will always recommend something. That is their job. That is what they do. They almost never say, "I don't know", whereas Master Gardeners, on the other hand, will brief you on the least toxic means to solve your insect problems. That is their job. That is what they do.

Seventy percent of the insecticides being sold, purchased, and used are classified as organophosphates. (Hitler used them in the gas chambers as well.) Many first-generation organophosphates were banned in the 1970s. Since then, however, the agrochemical industry turned to less persistent but more acute organophosphate and carbamate compounds to control insect pests.

The Center for Disease Control reports that people are routinely exposed to agrochemicals on a daily basis, with children being the most susceptible. Home gardeners are free to use pesticides that professionals need a permit to use.

The EPA constantly establishes and monitors "acceptable levels of human tolerance," but no one really knows how much pesticide is in use. We know that almost all households routinely use chemical pesticides. The assumption is that if it can be purchased, then it must be safe. Few bother to be either aware of, or read the label instructions. Fewer still take the mandated precautions while mixing, applying, storing, or recycling the unused portions of the products. Many simply dump the remaining product into the landfill with the garbage, down the sewer leading to the ocean, or down the sink into the water supplies. There are approximately 75 million households either unaware of, do not care, or do not believe that a product sold across the counter may be injurious to health.

The EPA is in the process of reassessing all human tolerance to pesticides. There are 469 pesticide active ingredients under study (out of 891) and 9700 tolerances (out of 11088) to be reevaluated. Reference: [www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/label/actai/htm](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/label/actai/htm).

The EPA gives manufacturers several years of lead-time to stop production of specific pesticides after they have been declared harmful to humans. It takes some additional time before a product is removed from the shelves. People have been known to stockpile products that have been banned, such as Dursban and diazinon,

just in case the "new stuff" doesn't work, thus perpetuating a threat to the environment.

The immoral thing is that we sell banned material overseas, mainly to developing nations. Or so the activists claim on the Internet. Reference: go to "banned pesticides" on Google and scroll down to "Banned Pesticides Kill Millions."

The public does not always recognize that all insects are not pests; in fact, a great many of them are beneficial to man and the indiscriminate use of pesticides kills the beneficial insects as well as harmful ones.

Meanwhile, as the song says, "the beat goes on!"

Readers of the CALIFORNIA GARDEN can lead the way in advising friends, neighbors, and family not to use pesticides as the first line of defense against insects. There are other, smarter, cheaper, and natural ways.

You can find more information about insect pest control at the following website: "ipm.ucdavis.edu" by clicking on UC Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program and then on How to Manage Garden Pests.

In addition, you can take advantage of a free county service by calling the San Diego Master Gardener office at 858-694-2860, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ask the Master Gardeners for the least toxic means of controlling your garden insect problems.

Put the chemicals away. As we used to say in the Army, "The life you save may be your own." □

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# DEADLY CYCADS

BY ARTHUR DAWSON

PLANTS WERE THE PRINCIPAL source of medicines through most of human history and prehistory. Many botanicals that were in use fifty years ago when I began studying medicine are rarely prescribed now but new ones regularly appear.

Sometimes miscalled “sago palms,” the 250 surviving species of cycads belong to an ancient group of non-flowering seed plants. They are native to the tropics and subtropics but many flourish in our climate. One remarkable specimen in the Palm House at Kew, labeled “the oldest pot plant in the world,” was collected in Africa in 1775. A fascinating medical whodunit concerns a species common in the forests of Guam.

Shortly after World War II physicians recognized that the Chamorros, the indigenous people of Guam, had an exceptionally high risk of developing two degenerative conditions of the nervous system, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS or “Lou Gehrig’s disease”) and “parkinsonism-dementia complex” (PDC). The incidence of ALS was fifty to one hundred times greater in Guam than elsewhere in the world and in the late 1940s it was the leading cause of death. At first a genetic cause was suspected but there was no clear familial pattern in the affected people and so researchers began to look for something in the environment. Suspicion soon fell on a peculiar item in the Gaumanian diet, tortilla flour made from the seeds of *Cycas rumphii*. It was well known that the seeds were poisonous but the Chamorros prevented the toxic effects by repeated washing of the flour. The chronic degenerative conditions were thought to be due to a “slow toxin” that was still present in the washed flour and damaged the nerve cells only after years of exposure. The prime suspect was b-methylamino-L-alanine or BMAA. The weakness in this theory was that the amounts of the chemicals shown to produce nerve damage in animals were far greater than the amount that humans would consume, even if they ate the tortillas regularly.

Oliver Sacks, author of *The Man Who Mistook his Wife for a Hat*, and his associate, Paul Cox, came up with an intriguing theory to explain not only the frequent occurrence of ALS in the Guamanians but also its near-disappearance in the last few decades. They blamed another local delicacy, the fruit bats or flying foxes that were regularly eaten by the Chamorros during traditional feasts, especially in the villages where ALS was most prevalent. The animal was eaten whole after boiling in

coconut milk. The seeds of *Cycas rumphii* were a major source of food for the flying foxes and these writers suggested that the toxins were concentrated or “biomagnified” in their tissues. The bats were such a popular food item that one species, *Pteropus tokudae*, was hunted to extinction and the other, *P. mariannus*, was reduced to fewer than one hundred animals by the 1970s. Those that escaped the hunters fell prey to feral cats and to the brown tree snake introduced from Australia and the South Pacific islands. The demand for flying foxes was then satisfied by importation from Samoa and other islands where there were no indigenous cycads and the meat was free of the toxin. The decline of ALS paralleled that of the flying foxes after a delay of about a quarter century.

This theory was supported in a recent report from Cox and his associate, Sandra Banack, who looked for BMAA in the dried skins of three museum specimens of *P. mariannus* that were collected in Guam during the 1950s. They found concentrations of BMAA in the bat skins that were roughly 130 times greater than they were in cycad seeds. They estimated that eating one 500 gram bat would give a dose of BMAA equivalent to consuming more than a metric ton of processed cycad flour. □



Seed of *Cycas rumphii*

Arthur Dawson is a retired physician with thirty years of growing experience.

Reprinted, with permission, from the November 2003 “The Spindrift,” the newsletter of The Village Garden Club of La Jolla [California].





## Book Reviews

### WATER FEATURES FOR SMALL GARDENS

Keith Davitt

Portland, Timber Press, 2003, 174 pages, 150 color photos, 7½" x 9¼", hardcover, \$29.95

The author, Keith Davitt, is a well-known garden designer and writer. In this book he offers design alternatives for every style of garden and every budget.

Davitt tells us that developments through the 1990s in construction materials have made water gardens relatively easy and inexpensive to install. He takes the reader through design, construction, materials, and maintenance for a chosen water feature. He discusses what to do if you choose to incorporate your chosen feature into an existing landscape. He also addresses designing a new landscape that includes a water feature as a natural and beautifying component.

This book contains nine chapters that help you decide which feature is just right for you. Each chapter on a given type of feature is followed by construction details for that feature. A tenth chapter considers planting your chosen water feature.

Enjoy the pages of this book as you search within them to find the perfect water feature to bring grace, beauty, and magic to your garden.

*Reviewed by Suzie Heap*

### COLUMBINES: *Aquilegia*, *Paraquilegia*, and *Semiaquilegia*

Robert Nold

Portland, Timber Press, 2003, 194 pages, 45 color photos, 6" x 9", hardcover, \$24.95

Possibly because they are so easy to grow, columbines are, and have been, the favorite flower of gardeners for hundreds of years. The title of this very informative book provides a clue to the intricacies of its history, with discussions of the meaning of its name, the remarkable inbreeding qualities that have resulted in so many varieties of form and a complicated taxonomy that has shifted and changed throughout the centuries.

In effect, this small volume contains all anyone could want to know about columbines. It is written in an easy conversational style, with humor lacing even the most intense discussions. Entire chapters are devoted to cultivation ("embarrassingly easy"), pests and diseases ("leave the bugs alone"), propagation (seeds can no longer be imported to the U.S.), plant structure, and taxonomy. Groupings of watercolor plates and color photos are handsome additions, as are the graceful line drawings embellishing several pages. A glossary and bibliography are at the end of the book.

*Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones*

### WILD IRISES, IRISES, AND GRASSES: Gardening with California Monocots

Nora Harlow and Kristin Jacob, editors

Berkeley, University of California Press, 2004, 287 pages, 59 color photos, 74 line drawings, 7" x 10", softcover, \$24.95

This book is the work of a plant study group formed in the 1970s. The initial focus was the cultivated varieties of native plants in the San Francisco Bay area grown for their ornamental value. The Jepson Manual is used for classification, but mention is made also of other families assigned by other authors. The difference is especially noticeable in the lily family. Only 250 plants are included here from the 1,156 California native monocots listed in the Jepson Manual (species, subspecies and variety). Rare plants and those not available in trade are not included.

The major part of the book is devoted to bulbs and bulblike plants. Only a few species grown in Southern California are included: *Allium*, *Chlorogalum*, *Calochortus*. Smaller sections on grasses and succulents are of greater interest to local gardeners. Detailed information is given on what each plant prefers and accepts in growing conditions and when and how it blooms. Nurseries listed include Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano and Las Pilitas Nursery South in Escondido.

*Reviewed by R. Cox*

### THE PRUNING OF TREES, SHRUBS AND CONIFERS

George E. Brown and Tony Kirkham

Portland, Timber Press, 2004, 340 pages, 48 color photos, 7" x 9", hardcover, \$29.95

First printed in 1972, George Brown's "bible" for pruning has been regarded as the last word on the subject and this recent edition includes all the latest in theory and technique. Brown, who died in 1980, was assistant curator at the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew and Tony Kirkham is currently head of the Arboretum and Horticultural Services at Kew, so their combined expertise is difficult to

question.

Two main emphases dominate this book. One is the use of "target pruning," trimming back no farther than the branch collar, which is its base on the trunk, and the other is a restriction on the use of wound sealants. Both these concepts are a departure from Brown's original edition and Kirkham explains the history of this change of thought. The first chapter is a complete discussion of the general principles of pruning, with many photos and diagrams to illustrate the right and wrong ways of doing it. These first thirty pages clearly describe all the pitfalls of bad pruning and the advantages of doing the job in a proper way.

Subsequent chapters on the pruning of trees and conifers and the pruning of shrubs and climbers include the same visual aids of photos and diagrams. Then comes a chapter on cutting for display and propagating material, which includes possible problems in maintenance, as for instance, the use of large modern machinery that can easily prune low branches by accident! A chapter on pest and disease control includes a detailed chart of treatments.

The last half of the book is a detailed alphabetical list of genera and their specific pruning needs. Starting with *Abelia*, through *Callistemon*, *Eugenia*, *Podocarpus*, and *Viburnum*, this is one English import that has true relevance for local gardeners. An appendix listing common names with botanical equivalents and another appendix with a complete discussion of tools and equipment add to the value of this very basic and down-to-earth book.

*Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones*

## **ARMITAGE'S GARDEN ANNUALS: A Color Encyclopedia**

**Alan M. Armitage**

Portland, Timber Press, 2004, 368 pages, 1,300 color photos, 8½" x 11", hardcover, \$49.95

A companion volume to the author's encyclopedia of perennials, published four years ago, this is a lovely edition with information focused mainly on gardening in the four seasons. Many plants presented here as annuals are very familiar to Southern Californians as perennials, which make the anecdotal incidentals on their varieties, habits, and histories the main value for local gardeners.

The author's stated purpose is to increase the knowledge and use of annuals, particularly newly hybridized varieties. He begins with a short preface discussing plant preferences, naming of cultivars, and the value of exploring unfamiliar species. His alphabetical listing of annuals begins with *Abelmoschus*, otherwise known as okra, which provides him the opportunity for

regaling the reader with his first negative impression of its taste but later appreciation of its flower. Next comes *Abutilon*, a familiar perennial in these parts but deserving many photos and descriptions of its wide range of varieties. And so it goes — with lots of chatty comment, most of it very readable and interesting in a general horticultural way.

The second section of the book offers listings of selected plants for specific purposes. Here, the local reader may find some direction to what grows best in sun or shade, what is edible or best for naturalizing, or what will thrive in containers, etc. Here, again, these are suggestions that should be modified by knowledge of our own climate and seasons.

*Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones*

## **CACTI AND SUCCULENTS: An Illustrated Guide to the Plants and their Cultivation**

**Graham Charles**

No. Pomfret, VT., Crowood Press Distributed by Trafalgar Square, 2004, 192 pages, 8½" x 11", 415 photos, hardcover, \$45

How many garden enthusiasms have been spawned by the gift of a tiny potted cactus or succulent? So easy to grow, even hard to kill, these exotic plants can induce an attachment that soon expands to the nurture of many kinds of growing things. Thus budding gardeners may unwittingly skip past the huge variety of cacti and succulents that are the subject of this beautiful volume.

Many full-color photos display the uniqueness of over 250 genera and their natural habitats. Succulents have their origins in Africa, while cacti are indigenous to Central and South America, however, all have managed to naturalize in Europe, Asia, and North America. Many plant families include succulents and the characteristics that determine this classification are as varied as the plants themselves. A chapter is devoted to the intricacies of plant classification, nomenclature and history, with drawings and color photos illustrating the plants, their cultivation, and their uses in the landscape.

Since all cacti are named according to their genus, they are presented alphabetically, except for a grouping of Columnar Cacti and slow-growing Mexican Treasures. The chapter on succulents presents an alphabetical listing of plant families, so that similar plants are found together, except for Miscellaneous Succulents from other plant families. No one ever said this was simple! All the text is generously illustrated with color photos, both close-up and in the landscape.

The author provides a guide to seeing the plants in outdoor settings and a listing of international societies, which can be found from the Czech Republic to the USA.

*Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones*



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4th Mon - 2:00 pm - Rancho Bernardo

Library (new), 2nd floor

LAS JARDINERAS

Pres: Gayle Stephenson 619-224-9601

3rd Mon - 10:30 am, Homes of Members

MIRACOSTA HORTICULTURE CLUB

Pres: Carol Ballard 760-630-3580

3rd Sat - 12:45 pm, MiraCosta Community

College, Student Center Bldg (upstairs)

Meetings Sep through Jun ONLY

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Sherri Schottlaender 619-295-2702

4th Wed - 6:30 pm

Oct thru Mar - Mission Hills United Church of

Christ at 4070 Jackdaw Street

Apr thru Sep - Mission Hills Nursery

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Dolly Hartman 619-276-0209

2nd Wed - 10:00 am, Masonic Center

1711 Sunset Cliffs Blvd

Guests welcome

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Gail Matson 858-486-8969

2nd Wed - 9:00 am, Lake Poway Pavilion

RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Donna Ferrer 858-756-1554

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Joyce McManus 619-449-3230

4th Tue - 9:30 am, Homes of Members



# CLUB AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES (CONTINUED)

## SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Jerry Thirloway 858-755-3284  
4th Wed - 9:30 am, Quail Bot. Gardens

## VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA

Pres: Ann Zahner 858-454-8088  
4th Thu - 10:00 am, Torrey Pines Christian Church, LJ

## VISTA GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Rosella Pelzer 760-724-7656  
1st Fri - 12:00 pm, Vista Senior Center

## IKEBANA SCHOOLS:

### ICHIYO SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Pres: Haruko Crawford 619-660-2046

### IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119

Pres: Mrs. Peter Gaskin 619-758-9609

### IKENOBOKU CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO

Pres: Mrs. Charles Oehler 858-278-5689

### OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA

### LA JOLLA CHAPTER

2nd Tues - 10:00 am, La Jolla Library

### OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA

### SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Pres: Mrs. Walter Bourland 619-276-4667

### SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA

### SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Director: Hiroko Szechinski 858-571-6137

### SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA

Master Instructor: Sumiko Lahey 619-429-6198

## PLANT SOCIETIES:

### AFRICAN VIOLET

### CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

Pres: Barbara Conrad 858-759-9972

4th Mon - 10:00 am, Vista Library,

700 Eucalyptus Avenue

### BEGONIA

### ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

### AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Pres: Doris Smith 619-222-1294

2nd Tue - 10:30 am, Homes of Members

### MABEL CORWIN BRANCH

### AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Pres: Dean Turney 760-942-1919

2nd Sun - 1:30 pm, except May & Aug

Quail Gardens

### MARGARET LEE BRANCH

### AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Pres: Michael Ludwig 619-262-7535

Last Sat - 10:30 am, Homes of Members

### BONSAI

### SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC.

Information Telephone 619-699-8776

2nd Sun - 10:30 am, Casa del Prado

Beginning & intermediate classes at 9:00 am

before meeting

### BROMELIAD

### BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF

### BALBOA PARK

Pres: David Ellsworth 619-286-5636

2nd Tue - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado

### SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Pres: Tom Knapik 619-462-1805

2nd Sat - 10:00 am, Casa del Prado

EXCEPT Nov & Dec

### NORTH COUNTY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Pres: Margaret Case 760-721-8422

4th Sun - 1:00 pm, Ecke Building

Quail Gardens

### CACTUS & SUCCULENT

### PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT

### SOCIETY

4th Sat - 12:15 pm, Joslyn Sr Ctr., Escondido

## SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND

## SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Pres: Pam Badger 619-589-1223

2nd Sat - 1:00 pm, Casa del Prado

### CAMELLIA

### SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Pres: E. C. (Gene) Snooks 858-454-6659

3rd Wed - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado

Meetings Nov through Apr ONLY

### DAHLIA

### SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY

Pres: David J. Tooley 858-672-2593

E-mail: djs21643@aol.com

4th Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

### DAYLILY (HEMEROCALLIS)

### SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY

Contact: Kathy Payne 760-789-5790

1st Sat - 10:00 am, Sep thru May

Quail Gardens

### EPIPHYLLUM

### SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY

Pres: Irene Sias 619-491-9495

Website: www.epiphyllum.com

2nd Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

### FERN

### SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY

Pres: Robin Halley 858-454-2234

3rd Thu - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

### FRUIT

### CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS

Chair: David Silverstein 619-523-8565

4th Thu - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado

Nov & Dec ONLY, 3rd Thu

### FUCHSIA & SHADE PLANTS

### SAN DIEGO FUCHSIA AND

### SHADE PLANT SOCIETY

Pres: Richard Hubbell 619-443-3706

2nd Mon - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

### GERANIUM

### SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY

Pres: Clark Lohry 619-469-8936

2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

### HERB

### THE HERB CLUB

Pres: Judy Dunning 619-579-0222

1st Wed - 7:00 pm, Balboa Park, Casa del

Prado, Room 101, no meeting July or December

### IRIS

### SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL COUNTIES

### IRIS SOCIETY

Pres: Pat Brendel 760-806-7865

2nd Sun - 1:00 pm

Call for newsletter and location

### SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

### IRIS SOCIETY

Pres: Eileen Fiumara 818-986-4188

1st Thu - 7:30 pm -

Canoga Park Women's Club,

7401 Jordan, Canoga Park

### NATIVE PLANTS

### CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

### SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

3rd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado 619-685-7321

### LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB

Pres: Yolanda Fleet 760-745-1219

4th Mon - 2:00 pm - Rancho Bernardo

Library (new), 2nd floor

### ORCHID

### SAN DIEGO COUNTY CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY

### A BRANCH OF THE CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY OF

### AMERICA, INC.

Vice Pres: Bruce Kidd 909-698-3061

3rd Wed - 7:00 pm, Carlsbad Women's Club

### SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

Pres: Gary Pierwola 619-426-9108

E-mail: keikiman@aol.com

1st Tues - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

## ORGANIC

## BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Ron Nordfelt 619-475-8086

4th Tue - 7:00 pm, Bonita Valley Baptist Church at

4701 Sweetwater Road. Meeting in back.

EXCEPT Aug & Dec

## PLUMERIA

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY

Pres: Joy Herzog 619-443-4795

4th Sun - 1:00 pm-3:00 pm, Feb thru Oct

Casa del Prado, Room 102

E-mail: c.herzog@att.net

## ROSE

## EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY

Pres: Roger English 619-582-3794

Website: eastcountyrosesociety.com

1st Sun - 2:00 pm, except Jul & Aug

Gardens of Members

## SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY

Pres: Steve Berry 619-235-0004

3rd Mon - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

EXCEPT Jan & Feb - 4th Mon

No meetings Jul & Aug

## TREES

## PEOPLE FOR TREES

Contact: Pat Stevenson 619-222-TREE

FAX: 619-223-8733

E-mail: adoglover1@juno.com

## WATER GARDEN

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER GARDEN

## SOCIETY

President: Ed Simpson 760-436-3704

3rd Sun - Apr thru Oct

Website: groups.yahoo.com/group/sdwatergarden

E-mail: dc@pondplants.com

Call for meeting information.

## AFFILIATES:

Send changes to: Rosaleen Cox, Affiliates

Editor, *California Garden*, 1650 El Prado

#105, San Diego CA 92101-1622. Call

619-232-5762.

E-mail: membership@sdfloal.org

Deadline for Nov-Dec issue: Sep 29 2004

Are you aware that each affiliate group is

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Lynn Beyerle at 619-232-5762 for

details.

## KATE SESSIONS BOOK

The complete collection of writings by Kate Sessions in *California Garden* magazine from 1909 until 1939 is available at the San Diego Floral Association in Room 105, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. This book contains a plant index, and many changes in plant names, particularly scientific, have been noted. Often known as "The Mother of Balboa Park," Kate Sessions for over fifty years devoted her life to helping people grow beautiful plants in San Diego. She tells how in this book.

### ROLAND HOYT BOOK REPRINT

*Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions* by Roland Stewart Hoyt has been reprinted by his sons. This book has been available only at rare book stores until now (going rate \$65). Bill and Mike have donated the new books to San Diego Floral Association. Ten dollars of each book sale will be added to the scholarship fund established in the name of Ethel and Roland Hoyt. The books are available at office above.

Half the book is a written description and sketch of each plant. In recent years, many scientific names have been changed, but there is an updated nomenclature at the end of the book.

#### *The Complete Writings of Kate Sessions 1909-1939*

- ☐ \$21.00 non-members (book, tax, mailing)
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(\$18 or \$15 if picked up, tax included)

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(\$14.50 if picked up, tax included)

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1650 El Prado #105, San Diego CA 92101-1622

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- ☞ Video and book library
- ☞ Local garden tours
- ☞ Annual Garden Party
- ☞ Discounts at nurseries
- ☞ And much more!

### Upcoming Events & Meetings:

#### September 13: The Sex Life of Orchids

Orchid expert Carol Siegel's slide lecture focuses on the fascinating world of orchid pollination and orchid pollinators.

#### October 11 – Ten Steps to a Smart Garden

Author Pat Welsh shares ideas from her brand-new book about how to create a "smart garden" that's easy to care for and enjoyable.

Available now: our hardcover, lavishly illustrated book,  
*Ornamental Trees of San Diego*, only \$34.95

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San Diego, CA 92101-1622 (in Casa del Prado, Balboa Park)

## SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

*NOW* is the time to join! Learn how easy and fun it is to grow orchids. Meet the experts through society activities including lectures, tours, open houses, and classes.

The society meets the first Tuesday of every month at Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Cultural classes start at 6:30 p.m. in the library, followed by the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. in room 101. Refreshments, orchid display, and an orchid raffle follow the meeting.

All this and a great monthly newsletter for only \$10.00 (single membership) or \$12.50 (dual membership) per year. Don't delay, make your check out today to the SDCOS and mail to:



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